

Message Text

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TAGS: PARM US UK UR
SUBJECT: CTB NEGOTIATIONS: SOVIET DELEGATION COMMENTS ON
RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN DURATION AND NSS

CTB MESSAGE NO.284

1. ON AUGUST 3 WE RECEIVED SEVERAL CLEAR INDICATIONS OF
THE SOVIET DELEGATION'S VIEWS ON THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN
THE DURATION OF THE TREATY AND THE SOVIET NEGOTIATING
STANCE ON NSS.

2. IN AN INFORMAL DISCUSSION BETWEEN TIMERBAEV AND BELOV
(USSR) AND NEIDLE AND MCCORMACK (US), NEIDLE ASKED
TIMERBAEV TO CLARIFY AN ELEMENT IN TARASOV'S AUGUST 1
PRESENTATION ON NSS. TARASOV (USSR) HAD TOLD THE NSS
SUBGROUP THAT THE SOVIET DEL POSITION ON SOME ISSUES
MIGHT CHANGE AFTER WE FOUND SOLUTIONS TO CERTAIN ISSUES
RAISED BY THE MULTILATERAL TREATY. TARASOV HAD MENTIONED
THE PROBLEM OF DURATION (CTB 281). TIMERBAEV SAID THAT
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THE SOVIET DEL'S DRAFT LANGUAGE FOR AN ARTICLE AND ANNEX
ON NSS HAD BEEN PREPARED WITH THE POSSIBILITY OF A
3-YEAR TREATY DURATION IN MIND, AS WELL AS ANY DURATION
BETWEEN THREE AND FIVE YEARS. IF, IN THE NEGOTIATIONS,
THE US DEL PRESSED FOR DETAILED VERIFICATION PROVISIONS
IN ADDITION TO THOSE IN THE SOVIET DRAFT, THESE WOULD BE
CONSIDERED IN THE CONTEXT OF DURATION.

3. A SECOND INDICATION OF THE SOVIET DEL'S THINKING INVOLVES A CLARIFICATION OF TARASOV'S STATEMENT OF JULY 25 (CTB 272) TO THE EFFECT THAT, ALTHOUGH THE SOVIET DEL WOULD PREFER TO DEFER AGREEMENT ON EQUIPMENT CHARACTERISTICS FOR RESOLUTION IN THE JCC, IT COULD CONSIDER OTHER PROPOSALS FOR DEALING WITH THESE CHARACTERISTICS "PROVIDING WE FIND MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE SOLUTIONS TO OTHER ISSUES RELATED TO THE EXCHANGE OF ADDITIONAL SEISMIC DATA." AFTER THE NSS WORKING GROUP MEETING ON AUGUST 3, NOVIKOV (USSR) TOLD FAKELY (UK), SCHRAG, TURNBULL AND FILSON (US) THAT THE "OTHER ISSUES" TARASOV HAD IN MIND INCLUDED "DURATION AND THE NUMBERS AND LOCATIONS OF STATIONS."

4. DURING THE AUGUST 3 NSS WORKING GROUP MEETING, TARASOV REITERATED WHAT HE HAD EARLIER TOLD FINCH (US) PRIVATELY (CTB 280): THAT SOVIET RELUCTANCE TO AGREE TO SATELLITE COMMUNICATION OF THE SEISMIC DATA RELATED TO THE SHORT, LIMITED DURATION OF THE TREATY AND TO THE UK/US PROPOSAL TO MAKE ONLY AN AMBIGUOUS REFERENCE TO A POSSIBLE "REPLACEMENT TREATY." HE SAID THAT IT WAS UNREASONABLE TO EXPECT THE SOVIET UNION TO CONSTRUCT EXPENSIVE, ELABORATE COMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES THAT MIGHT HAVE NO UTILITY AFTER THE SHORT DURATION OF THE TREATY.

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